

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-30 are all the claims pending in the application. With this Amendment, claims 7, 18-22 and 26-28 have been reintroduced for consideration. Claims 4-6, 8, 10-13, 29 and 30 are withdrawn from consideration.

1. Restriction Requirement

Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the restriction requirement on claims 7, 18-22 and 26-28.

Applicant notes that the Examiner's comments on page 4 regarding the possible statutory double patenting apply only if Applicant files divisional or continuation applications directed to the subject matter of claims 4-6, 8 and 10-13 and include the subject matter of claims 2 or 3.

Applicant reserves the right to file divisional or continuation applications directed to the original subject matter of claims 1, 4-6, 8, 10-14, 29 and 30 since the Examiner has not withdrawn the restriction requirement for claims 4-6, 8, 10-13, 29 and 30.

2. Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7, 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh in view of Kimura *et al.* (US 4,599,653) ["Kimura"]. For at least the following reasons, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter, which the Examiner has deemed allowable (please see amendment to claim 15 in the filing of November 28, 2005). Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable. Applicant submits that claims 7, 9 and 14 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

3. Rejoinder of Claims

Because independent claim 1 is patentable, Applicant requests rejoinder of claims 4-6, 8 and 10-13 based on their dependency on claim 1.

4. Allowed Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 15 and 17-28 and for indicating that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has rewritten claim 2 in independent form and submits that claims 2 and 3 are allowable.

5. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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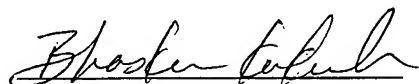
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